

Message Text

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SUBJ: 62ND ECOSOC--PREPARATORY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. THE PREPARATORY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE 1978 WORLD CONFERENCE FOR THE DECADE COMPLETED ITS TWO-WEEK SESSION MARCH 25 AND ADOPTED A DRAFT REPORT WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ECOSOC. THE DRAFT REPORT INCLUDES A PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE, RECOMMENDATIONS ON PARTICIPATION, VENUE, DATE, DURATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERENCE. A COPY OF THE DRAFT REPORT (E/AC.65/L.5 AND ADDS. 1-6) IS BEING FORWARDED TO IO/HR, HEWITT.

2. THE FOLLOWING STATES PARTICIPATED IN THE PREP SUB-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE: ALGERIA, AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, COLOMBIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, FRANCE, GDR, FRG, GRENADA, IRAQ, KENYA, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, SOMALIA, SYRIA, TOGO, USSR, UK, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA, ZAIRE.

3. THE PROPOSED AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE CONTAINED IN ADD.2 IS STATED IN RELATIVELY GENERAL TERMS BUT CONTAINS

IN PARAS 11 (A) AND 11 (B) TWO PROPOSALS WHICH CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE, I.E., FRANCE, FRG AND THE UK. PARA 11 (A) CALLS FOR FULL AND UNIVERSAL IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, DECOLONIALIZATION AND SELF-DETERMINATION. PARA 11 (B) INCLUDES A CALL FOR WAYS AND MEANS OF DENYING SUPPORT TO RACIST REGIMES AND INSURING THEIR ISOLATION.

4. THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION OF NGOS WAS LEFT TO ECOSOC TO DECIDE. THE USSR AND ARAB DELEGATIONS ARGUE THAT SELECTION OF NGOS SHOULD BE BASED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON THEIR RECORD IN THE FIELD OF STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND THEIR SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAM. THIS ARGUMENT IS LEADING UP TO AN ATTEMPT TO DENY PARTICIPATION TO NGOS WHO HAVE NOT SUPPORTED GA RESOLUTIONS, SPECIFICALLY, JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE OPPOSED RESOLUTION 3379. THIS AIM WAS NOT, OF COURSE, SPECIFICALLY STATED BUT IS A REFLECTION OF THE SOVIET AND ARAB POSITION TAKEN AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE NGO COMMITTEE WHEN DISCUSSING CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED IN THE FORTHCOMING REVIEW OF NGOS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE VENUE, DATE AND DURATION OF THE CONFERENCE, THE SUB-COMMITTEE TENTATIVELY AGREED ON 14-25 AUGUST 1978 AS A PRELIMINARY DATE FOR THE CONFERENCE. AS THERE HAS BEEN NO GOVERNMENT OFFER TO HOST THE CONFERENCE, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IF NO OFFER IS FORTHCOMING, THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN EITHER NY OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENEVA. THE QUESTION OF DOCUMENTATION HAS DEVELOPED AS AN EVEN MORE SENSITIVE ISSUE THAN THE PROBLEM OF THE AGENDA ITSELF. THE SUB-COMMITTEE CONSIDERED TWO CATEGORIES OF DOCUMENTATION--PRESESSION DOCUMENTS AND IN-SESSION DOCUMENTS. WITH RESPECT TO IN-SESSION DOCUMENTATION, THE DELEGATION OF SYRIA SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD PREPARE A COMPILATION OF ALL GA RESOLUTIONS ON RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND THE SUGGESTION WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE REPORT. THE DELEGATION OF IRAQ ALSO INSISTED THAT THE DOCUMENTATION FROM THE BAGHDAD CONFERENCE AND OTHER PRINCIPAL NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCES INCLUDING THE RECENT AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION FOR THE CONFERENCE. INCLUSION OF SUCH DOCUMENTS WOULD, OF COURSE, INCLUDE RESOLUTION 3379 AND THE RECENT ANTI-ZIONIST DECLARATIONS AS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE. THIS QUESTION WILL BE BEFORE ECOSOC TO DECIDE.

6. COMMENT. THIS DRAFT REPORT WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE AT THE SPRING SESSION OF THE ECOSOC BEGINNING APRIL 12. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT US POSITION OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE DECAE, WE ASSUME THAT THE US WILL NOT BE TAKING PART IN THE DEBATE ON THE REPORT. HOWEVER, IF THE DEPT HAS ANY VIEWS ABOUT THE REPORT WHICH SHOULD BE PASSED ON TO THE WESTERN MEMBERS OF ECOSOC, SPECIFICALLY, THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THESE VIEWS WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. THE UK HAS INFORMED US THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A MEETING APRIL 6 OF THE EC-9, US AND A FEW OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS TO DISCUSS ECOSOC ISSUES.

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